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CYBERTRON: A MECHANICAL WORLD WHERE THE HEROIC AUTOBOTS AND EVIL DECEPTICONS HAVE BEEN LOCKED IN A DEADLY CIVIL WAR FOR MILLIONS OF YEARS. WITH THE LEADERS OF BOTH SIDES MISSING AND ENERGY LEVELS LOW, THE CONFLICT HAS NOW BECOME CONFUSED AND DESPERATE. THIS IS THE ERA OF THE MICROMASTERS

VICTIMS OF THE REVOLUTION

WRITERS JAMES MCDONOUGH
ADAM PATYK
PENCILS ROB RUFFOLO
INKS ERIK SANDER
COLORS SIG TORRE
ERIC BURNS
JOSH PEREZ
JOSH BURCHAM
LETTERS BEN LEE

I'M GLAD YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS SAW THE LIGHT ABOUT JOINING MY MISSION.
I'M QUITE PLEASED, IN FACT, THAT YOU DID SO EVEN SOONER THAT I HAD ANTICIPATED.
UM, COUNTDOWN, SIR...
WE DIDN'T EXACTLY SHOW UP HERE TO ENLIST. IT'S JUST, THE DECEPTICONS...!
I KNOW, BIG DADDY.
...BUT THEY'VE ATTACKED LITTLE IACON! WHO KNOWS WHAT THEY'RE DOING TO THE OTHER MICROMASTERS WE NEED--
I'VE BEEN MONITORING THE SITUATION, AND AM MERELY WAITING FOR THE MOST OPPORTUNE TIME TO TAKE ACTION--
WHICH IS NOW, RIGHT?
MY ATV'S SET-- SHE'S LOADED-UP AND READY TO GO.
I SAY WE MOVE OUT.

...CERTAINLY, GROUNDSHAKER.

YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS HAVE ARRIVED AT THE *BEST* POSSIBLE TIME, BIG DADDY. WE'RE FULLY READY TO *RESCUE* YOUR COMPANIONS.

READY AND *WILLIN'*.

THAT'S WHAT I WANNA HEAR!

LET'S *ROLL*, GUYS!

I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT.

YOU MIGHT BE READY TO SIGN UP WITH CAPTAIN COUNTDOWN'S COMMANDOS HERE, BUT WHY SHOULD *WE*?

HUBS...I'M NOT SIGNING UP FOR ANYTHING JUST YET.

BUT I THINK I CAN SEE WHERE THIS WHOLE THING IS *GOING* NOW, AND *THAT'S* WHY I HAVE TO GO WITH THEM. LEAVING THE AUTOBOTS WAS ONE THING--THERE JUST WASN'T A *POINT* TO WHAT WE WERE DOING FOR THEM. BUT THIS... SOME OF THOSE 'BOTS ARE MY FRIENDS--AND SOME AREN'T. EITHER WAY, THEY *ALL* NEED HELP, AND THIS IS *MY* CHANCE TO ACTUALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN SOMETHING THAT *MATTERS*.

YOU GUYS HAVE HAD MY BACK SINCE WE HOOKED UP WITH THE AUTOBOTS DURING THOSE MELTDOWN RIOTS. BUT IF YOU'RE NOT *DOWN* WITH THIS, I CAN *UNDERSTAND*.

I...

I BAILED ON THE AUTOBOTS BECAUSE I WAS TIRED OF BEIN' THEIR *DRONE*. KILLIN' EACH OTHER OVER SHREDS OF ENERGON AND BURNED-OUT CHUNKS OF CYBERTRON *NEVER* FELT LIKE THE RIGHT THING TO DO--BUT HELPING THESE MICROS *DOES*.

I'M *GOIN'*.

I PROMISED MYSELF A WHILE BACK THAT I'D STAY ON THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW IF I EVER GOT A *SECOND* CHANCE. THE AUTOBOTS WOULD'A WRITTEN ME OFF AS JUST SOME DIRTBAG CRIMINAL IF DADDY AND SOME OF THOSE MECHS AT THE BURNS HADN'T STOOD UP FOR ME.

I'M NOT *ABOUT* TO LET THEM DOWN... AND I'M NOT GONNA LET *MYSELF* DOWN EITHER.

AHH, SCREW THIS *MUSHY* SLAG--IT'S ABOUT TIME WE BREAK THOSE DECEPTICONS OFF SOMETHIN' *PROPER*!

ALL RIGHT, THEN--WE'RE OUT FOR L.I.!

NO, WE'RE *NOT* HEADING FOR LITTLE IACON.

WE'RE GOING DIRECTLY INTO *DECEPTICON HEADQUARTERS*!

I HAVE IT ON GOOD AUTHORITY...

"...THAT IT WILL BE VACANT RATHER SOON."
YOU SEE BLITZWING AROUND?
NAH, NOT FOR A WHILE--SHOCKWAVE MUST HAVE HIM STICKING WITH THAT CUSHY BODYGUARD GIG OF HIS.
FELLOW DECEPTICONS-- THE TIME OF OUR FINAL VICTORY IS AT HAND!
"THAT'S RIGHT-- FINAL VICTORY! YEAH!"
IN MY INFINITE AND INFALLIBLE LOGIC, I HAVE DIVINED THAT NOW IS THE MOST TACTICALLY FAVORABLE MOMENT TO STRIKE AGAINST OUR HATED AUTOBOT ADVERSARIES.
BUT I'M CERTAIN THE TALK OF MY LOGIC BORES YOU. YOU ARE NO DOUBT ANTICIPATING THE DESTRUCTION OF THE AUTOBOTSAND REST ASSURED THAT, TOGETHER, WE WILL RAZE AUTOBASE TO THE GROUND! RATHER, YOU WILL RAZE AUTOBASE TO THE GROUND, SINCE I HAVE ALSO DECIDED THAT IT IS MOST EFFICIENT FOR ME TO REMAIN HERE AND MONITOR THE SITUATION FROM AFAR WHILE YOU ENGAGE THE ENEMY.
BUT NEVER FEAR-- WITH YOU ON THE MISSION, I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE GLORIOUS SIGHT OF DECEPTICON VICTORY WILL SOON GRACE MY SINGLE, GLOWING OPTIC SENSOR! OVER THE MONITORS.
IS HE SERIOUS?
I DON'T EVER REMEMBER OL' SHOCKWAVE BEING THIS FUNNY.
DECEPTICONS FOREVER!
THAT'S RIGHT-- DECEPTICONS FOREVER! YEAH!
DECEPTICONS FOREVER! DECEPTICONS FOREVER!

BLIP
SHOCKWAVE, OUT.
HEH-HEH. NEVER HAD TO HOTWIRE A HEAD BEFORE.
NICE SHOCKWAVE IMPRESSION, SKYSTALKER--I LIKED THE LINE ABOUT THE OPTIC. CLASSIC!
GLAD YOU ENJOYED IT...BUT IF I HAD TO IMITATE THAT INSUFFERABLE OAF FOR ONE MORE ASTROSECOND, SKYHOPPER...
NO MATTER. REATTACH THE HEAD TO ITS BODY AND RETURN IT TO STORAGE. I DON'T THINK WE'LL BE NEED ANYMORE OF SHOCKWAVE'S "HELP" AT THIS POINT.
YEAH, SKYSTALKER? WE MIGHT NEED SOME HELP WHEN THOSE GUZZLERS GET BACK AND FIGURE OUT THAT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SENT THEM OFF TO FIGHT.
DON'T WORRY, BARRICADE--THE WON'T.
I DIDN'T SEND THEM OFF TO FIGHT...
...I SENT THEM OFF TO DIE.

BUT... THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ON OUR SIDE, RIGHT?
ARE THEY?
IS THAT WHY THEY CONSTANTLY HOARD FUEL AND TREAT MOST OF YOU LIKE SLAVES?
WHY SHOULD WE WASTE OUR RESOURCES ON INEFFICIENT, OUTDATED MACHINES LIKE THEM WHEN WE CAN FOCUS ON THE FUTURE?
THESE DECEPTICONS ARE LAST CYCLE'S MODELS--USELESS. THIS CONFLICT I'VE ORCHESTRATED WILL WIPE OUT MOST OF THEM, AND LEAVE THE REST TO SLOWLY SHUT DOWN FROM LACK OF FUEL. IT WILL DO THE SAME TO THE AUTOBOTS.
WITHOUT OPPOSITION FROM OUR ENEMIES OR THOSE WITHIN OUR OWN RANKS, WITHOUT THEIR CONSTANT, MADDENING DRAIN ON OUR ENERGY SUPPLIES, THIS PLANET WILL SOON BE OURS. THEN... THE REST WILL FOLLOW.
OUR CYBERTRONIAN POWER IS UNMATCHED IN THE GALAXY--MY MISSION ALONE CONQUERED SCORES OF WORLDS! TOGETHER, WE WILL DO SO AGAIN. I'VE SEEN THE FUTURE, MY FRIENDS...
I THINK I'VE HEARD THIS SPEECH BEFORE...
...AND OUR ENEMIES WILL SOON BE EXTINCT!
ARRR... I HATE IT WHEN HE LOOKS AT ME LIKE THAT!

MOST OF US DIDN'T START OFF ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE FENCE...WE DID JOINT TRAINING THEN, JUST LEARNING THE ROPES. IT FELT LIKE BOTH SIDES WERE PULLING US IN A MILLION DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS.
ALL RIGHT, MECHS, YOU'RE HERE FOR MORE OF THE AUTOBOT-SPONSORE PORTION OF YOUR TRAININ PROGRAM.
UNLIKE YOUR DECEPTICON INSTRUCTORS, WE WON'T JUST BE TEACHING YOU TO ATTACK AND DEFEND-- WE'LL ALSO BE TEACHING YOU ABOUT THE VALUE OF INTEGRITY AND HONOR. MOREOVER...
BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH.
EVEN THEN, I WAS ALREADY GETTING SICK OF THE AUTOBOTS' HOT AIR. "NICE 'BOTS FINISH LAST," THEY ALWAYS SAY. AND I WASN'T ABOUT TO DO THAT.
I HAD A DIFFERENT NAME THEN...MAYBE I WAS A DIFFERENT 'BOT ALTOGETHER.
YOU'RE NEXT, RUNNER! GOOD LUCK.
I DON'T NEED LUCK, BIG DADDY.
CRSSSH
TOO SLOW, SUCKERS!
THERE WAS NO DOUBT ABOUT IT--
--I WAS THE BEST.
THEWM THEWM
YOW!
WATCH IT, PUNK!
AND I WASN'T PUTTIN' UP WITH ANYONE WHO DIDN'T GIVE ME THE RESPECT I DESERVED FOR MY GAME.
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? NOT MY FAULT THEY'RE LOSERS.
TRAINING PISTOLS AREN'T TOYS, RUNNER! SOMEONE COULD HAVE BEEN HURT!
IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT WINNING FOR US!
MAYBE THAT'S WHY YOU HAVEN'T WON YET.
RRR...

I WAS GONNA BE THE STAR PLAYER, AND I WOULDN'T LET ANYTHING HOLD ME BACK.
NICE JOB OUT THERE. IF YOU EVER GET TIRED OF THESE AUTOBOTS HOLDIN' YOU BACK, WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT THE SIDE THAT'LL ACTUALLY WIN THIS WAR.
YOU DO WANNA BE ON THE WINNING SIDE, RIGHT?
HMM...
MY REPUTATION EVENTUALLY EARNED ME A NEW NICKNAME, THE RESPECT OF THE OTHER MICROS, LIKE MOTORHEAD...
YOU WANNA SIT HERE LIKE A BUNCH OF WEAK, RUSTING WRECKS, OR DO YOU WANNA BE ON THE TEAM THAT'S GONNA TAKE CONTROL OF THINGS?!
YOU WANNA BE TOLD WHAT TO DO, OR DO YOU WANNA BE THE ONES TELLIN' THEM?
YEAH, BARRICADE!
AND BY THE TIME THE MELTDOWN RIOTS HIT, I MADE SURE TO PUSH EVERYONE WHO'D LISTEN THE SAME WAY I PUSHED MYSELF... THE SAME WAY SHOCKWAVE AND THE OTHERS HAD BEEN TEACHING ME TO.
BARRICADE, WHAT ABOUT HUBS AND THE OTHERS...?
FORGET 'EM! WE'VE GOT A TEAM THAT WANTS US. OR ARE YOU AFRAID YOU CAN'T CUT IT?
NO... I'M DOWN!
ONCE WE HOOKED UP WITH THE DECEPTICONS, THAT'S WHEN THINGS CHANGED. WE WERE IN THE BIG LEAGUES, AND I... I JUST COULDN'T COMPETE AT THAT LEVEL.
HUH--?
STICK TO THE SMALL STUFF, SCRAPLET!
YEAH, THIS MISSION'S FOR THE REAL WARRIORS.
I KEPT PUSHING MY TEAM, FOOLING MYSELF. BUT DEEP DOWN, I KNEW THE DECEPTICONS HAD DUPED ME. THEY USED ME TO SET THE OTHER MICROMASTERS UP FOR A FALL... AND THEY DIDN'T CARE ABOUT US ONCE THEY HAD WHAT THEY WANTED.
THIS IS MY LAST CHANCE TO DO THINGS RIGHT...

I WON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN!
IT'S ALL CRUMBLING APART AROUND ME.
K-CHNK
PRIMUS! WHY CAN'T I MAKE IT WORK? WHY CAN WE NEVER HAVE PEACE, EVEN FOR SO SHORT A TIME?
EH?
LET'S MOVE IT OUT, SOLDIER!
ULTRA MAGNUS, I KNOW. I'M READY.
GOOD. WHO KNOWS WHAT THE DECEPTICONS MAY HAVE DONE TO THE MICROMASTERS ALREADY?
CONSIDERING OUR DEPLETED RESOURCES, A PHYSICAL INTERVENTION IS OUR ONLY OPTION. IF WE ACT NOW, WE MAY STILL BE ABLE TO CATCH THEM OFF GUARD FROM THE WASTELANDS.
MAXIMUS.
LOOK, YOU'RE NOT ALONE HERE. WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER.
THAT STILL DOESN'T MAKE ME FEEL ANY BETTER ABOUT THINGS.
I THINK WE'VE ALL BEEN SITTING BACK AND LETTING THIS HAPPEN FOR FAR TOO LONG.
PRIME KNEW NO ONE WANTED TO SEE PEACE RETURN TO CYBERTRON MORE THAN HE DID. BUT EVEN HE KNEW THAT SOMETIMES PEACE BECOMES A THING WORTH FIGHTING FOR.
MAYBE IT IS TIME THAT WE TRIED THINGS YOUR WAY.
YOU REMIND ME MORE OF HIM EVERY DAY.
YES.
PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT, MAGNUS.

WELL, ISN'T THIS JUST GREAT!

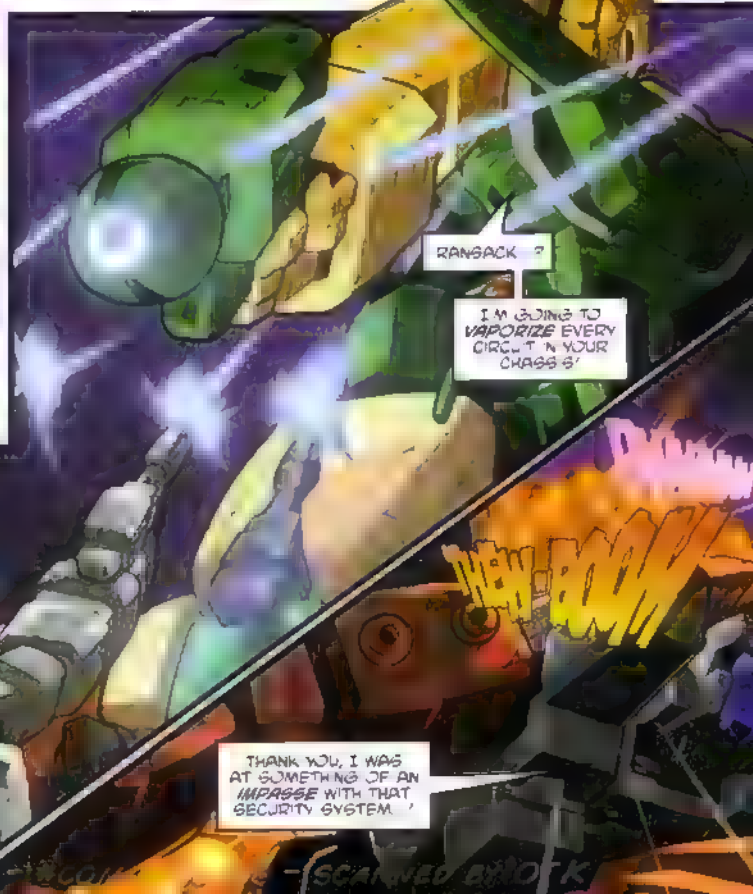
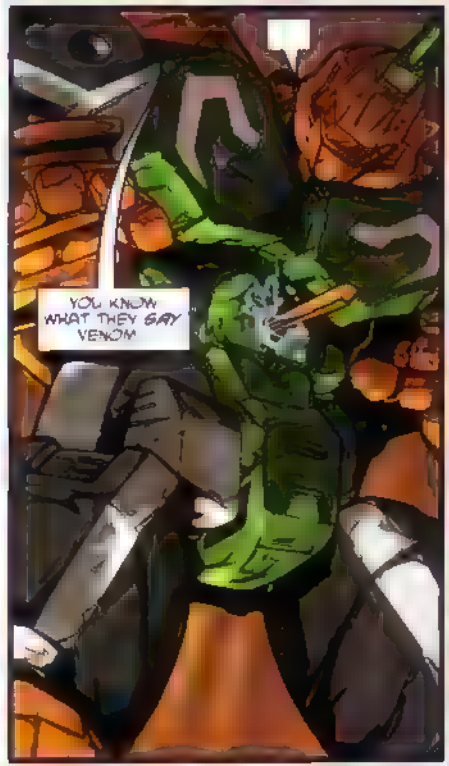
I THOUGHT THE DECEPTICONS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE GONE. WHY ARE WE SNEAKING IN THROUGH THEIR OIL-DISPOSAL TUNNELS?
YECH
THAT'S WHAT I'M SCREAMING. I THOUGHT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE ALL SUPER-SMART, COUNTDOWN

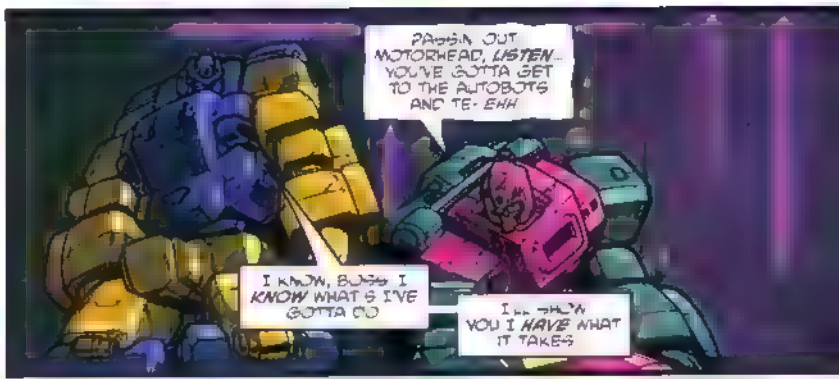
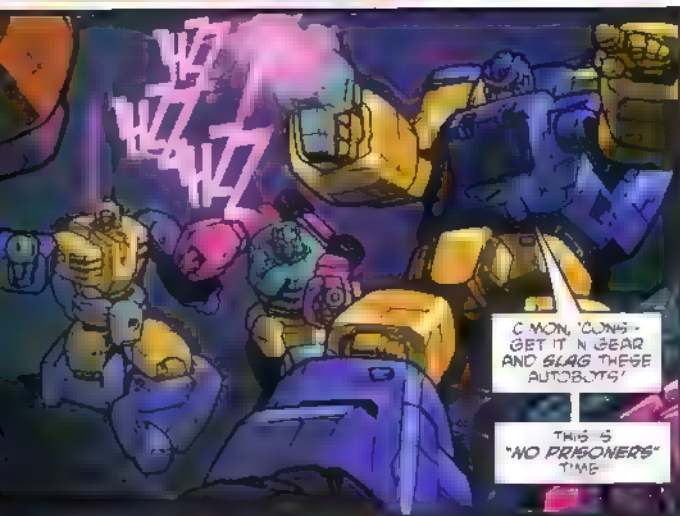
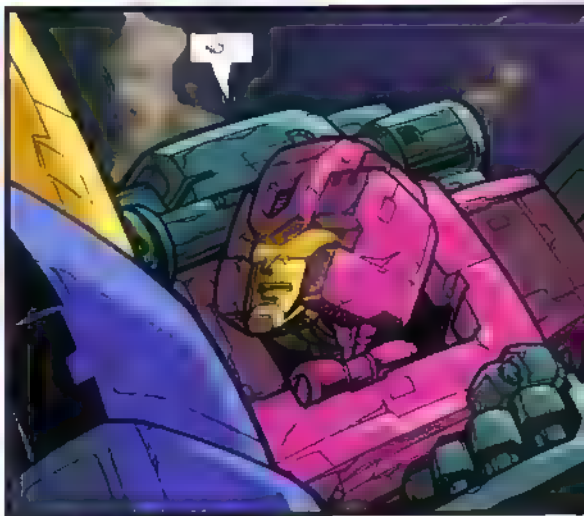
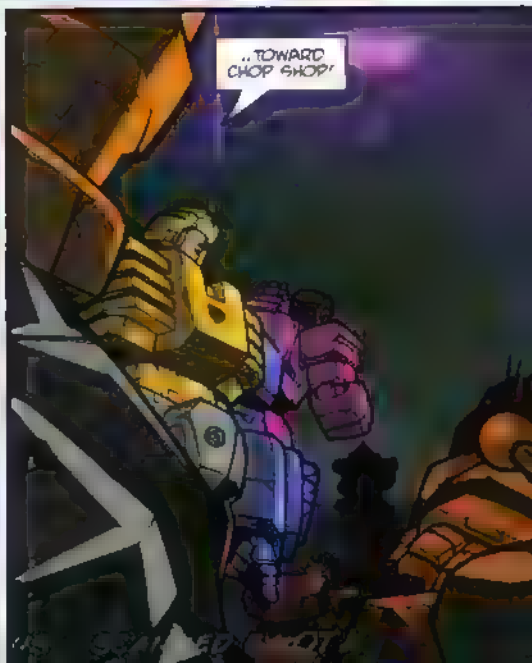
THESE WASTE SYSTEMS HAVE FEWER ELECTRONIC DEFENSES BECAUSE OF THEIR SMALL SIZE. ONLY A MICROMASTER COULD GET THROUGH. THAT MAKES IT EASIER FOR ME TO TEMPORARILY JAM THEM AND LET US ENTER THE BASE UNDETECTED.
BESIDES, WE DON'T KNOW WHO THE CONS LEFT TO GUARD THE BASE. WE CAN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES.
NOW, QUIET DOWN.

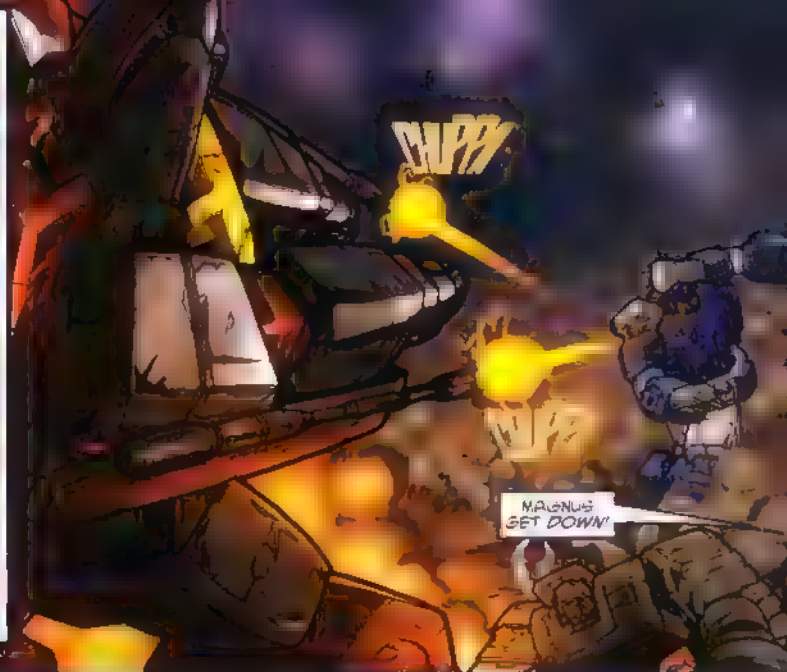
SO FAR, SO GOOD.
LOOKS PRETTY EMPTY.

TWO GUARDS. WE COULD HIT 'EM FROM BEHIND, BUT IF WE DON'T DROP 'EM RIGHT AWAY, THEY COULD CALL FOR HELP.
YOU'RE RIGHT. IT'S TOO RISKY. WE'LL TRY TO FREE THEM FIRST. STRENGTH IN NUMBERS.
HEH. AND THAT'S LESS RISKY HOW?

THANK
YO, GUYS. HATE TO SPOIL IT FOR YA.

BUT WE'VE BEEN SPOTTED
NO. YOU'VE BEEN SCRAPPED!
VENOM. CHOP SHOP! GET IN HERE!
GROUNDSHAKER A LITTLE ASSISTANCE, PLEASE
DONE
AGH!
I'LL DRAIN YOU DRY, HALF-BOT -
AH, I'M TIRED'A YOU ALREADY
RANSACK -?
I'M GOING TO VAPORIZE EVERY CIRCUIT 'N YOUR CHASSIS!
THANK YOU. I WAS AT SOMETHING OF AN IMPASSE WITH THAT SECURITY SYSTEM.

ROADHANDLER WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
EVERYONE CALM DOWN! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!
JUST HELPING A FRIEND!
TAKE OUT THE TRASH!
-RRRRRRR
BARRAGE
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY VENOM
PAYBACK'S A 'BOT'
SHHEE
NICE WORK, BLAZE MASTER!
KLANG

WHAT TH' *HECK* HAPPENED HERE?
TH THEY *WASTED* THE REST OF THE TEAM'
STEN TO ME, WE CAN'T

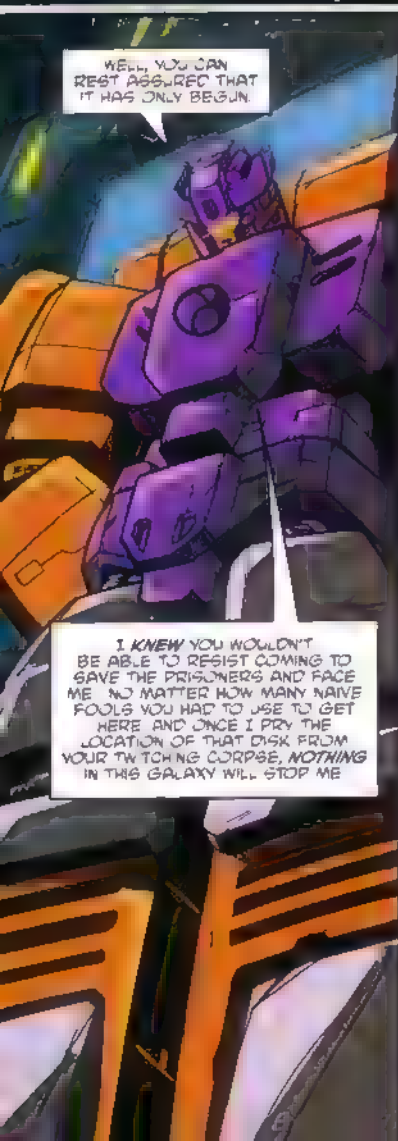
T'S THOSE DECEPTICON *SELL-OUTS'*
P-UP *WAIT*

PASSIN OUT MOTORHEAD, *LISTEN*... YOU'VE GOTTA GET TO THE AUTOBOTS AND TE- *EHH*
I KNOW, BOSS I *KNOW* WHAT'S I'VE GOTTA DO
YOU I *HAVE* WHAT IT TAKES

C'MON, 'CONS - GET IT N GEAR AND *SLAG* THESE AUTOBOTS'
THIS S *"NO PRISONERS"* TIME

I CAN'T *BELIEVE* IT' TRIP-UP WAS *RIGHT* ABOUT THEM
DAMN STRAIGHT I WAS'
I- HEY, WHERE'S COUNTDOWN ? HE WAS HEADING DOWN THE HAL..

..TOWARD CHOP SHOP'

AMBUSH! GET TO COVER!
LOOK OUT, SIDETRACK

MAGNUS GET DOWN!

NOT A BAD MANEUVER, FOR A PACIFIST
I LEARNED FROM THE BEST

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WE CAME TO RESCUE THE MICROMASTERS. HOW DID WE WALK INTO A WAR?
WHAT'S SHOCKWAVE UP TO?
WHAT CONCERNS ME EVEN MORE IS

"WHERE IS HE?"
OH, PRIMUS
WHAT HAS HE DONE?

IT'S EVEN WORSE THAN I IMAGINED. I KNEW HE WAS DERANGED, BUT HOW COULD HE GO THIS FAR--BUTCHERING HIS OWN KIND?
ADMIRING MY HANDIWORK, ARE YOU?

WELL, YOU CAN REST ASSURED THAT IT HAS ONLY BEGUN.
I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO RESIST COMING TO SAVE THE PRISONERS AND FACE ME. NO MATTER HOW MANY NAIVE FOOLS YOU HAD TO USE TO GET HERE. AND ONCE I PRY THE LOCATION OF THAT DISK FROM YOUR TWITCHING CORPSE, NOTHING IN THIS GALAXY WILL STOP ME.

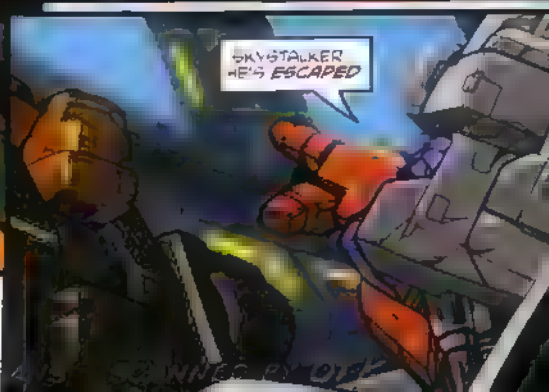
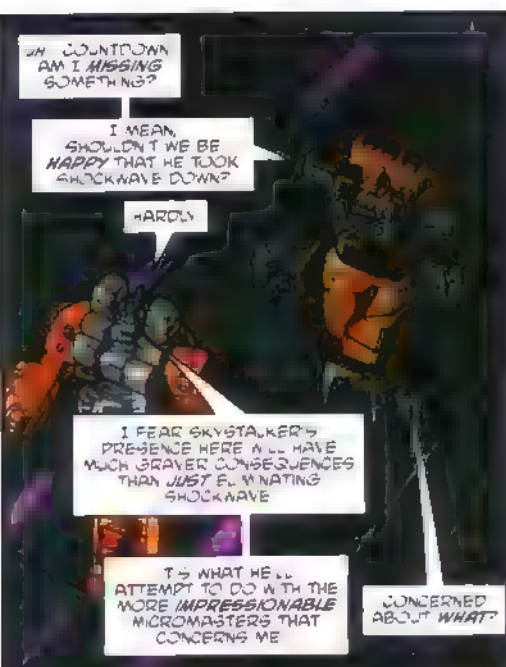
CURSE YOU, SKYSTALKER. I WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY WITH THIS AGAIN!
ZEW

WHY, COUNTDOWN. I'M SHOCKED! RESORTING TO CHEAP SHOTS?

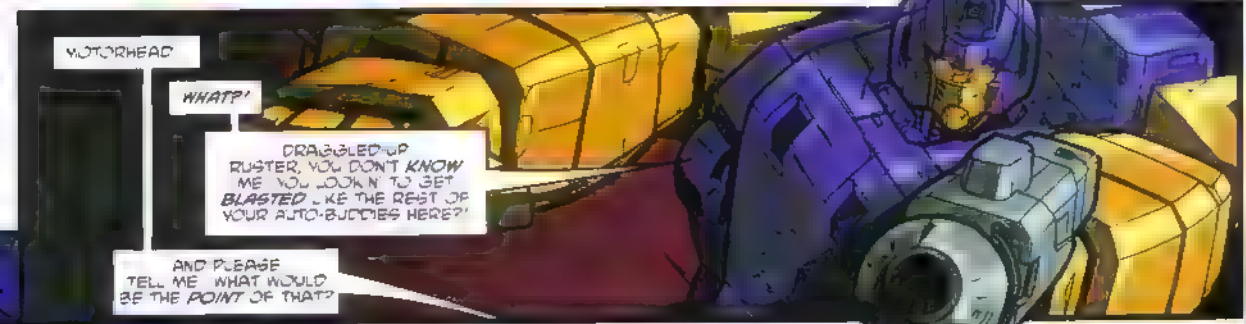
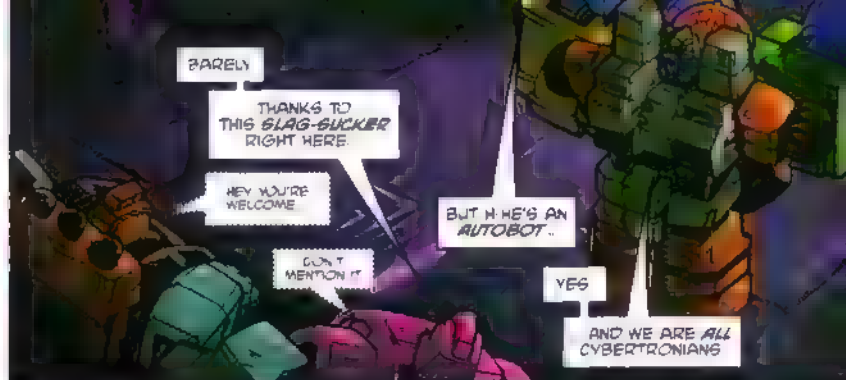
LOOKS LIKE YOU DID LEARN SOMETHING FROM ME AFTER ALL!
APPARENTLY, LEAVING ME TO DIE WASN'T JUST AN ISOLATED INCIDENT!

TOO BAD YOU'LL NEVER *FINISH* THE LESSON!

AHHH!

SKYSTALKER, HE'S *ESCAPED*.

UH... COUNTDOWN AM I MISSING SOMETHING?
I MEAN, SHOULDN'T WE BE HAPPY THAT HE TOOK SHOCKWAVE DOWN?
HARDLY.
I FEAR SKYSTALKER'S PRESENCE HERE WILL HAVE MUCH GRAVER CONSEQUENCES THAN JUST ELIMINATING SHOCKWAVE.
IT'S WHAT HE'LL ATTEMPT TO DO WITH THE MORE IMPRESSIONABLE MICROMASTERS THAT CONCERNS ME.
CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT?

THIS!
FOLLOW ME.

THE SITUATION MAY PROVE PROBLEMATIC.
RIGHT BEHIND.
HUH?
WAIT.
HA, I GUESS BARRICADE WAS RIGHT!
MOTORHEAD, HOW COULD YOU DO THIS?
IT'S EASY, HUBS, ONCE YOU...
DON'T YOU THINK WE'VE ALL HAD ENOUGH OF THIS?
MOTORHEAD.
WHAT?!
DRAGGLED-UP RUSTER, YOU DON'T KNOW ME. YOU LOOKIN' TO GET BLASTED LIKE THE REST OF YOUR AUTO-BUDDIES HERE?!
AND PLEASE TELL ME, WHAT WOULD BE THE POINT OF THAT?
HASN'T THERE BEEN ENOUGH MINDLESS DESTRUCTION ALREADY?
I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU, MOTORHEAD. I KNOW THAT YOU'RE AS TIRED OF THESE GAMES AS ANYONE. PERHAPS MORE SO.
IS THIS REALLY WHAT YOU WANT?
I... I DON'T...
WHAT'S THIS FOOL TALKING ABOUT?
NOTHING! I FIGURED ALL OF THAT OUT! I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I WANT NOW! AND I FINALLY KNOW WHAT BARRICADE WAS TRYING TO TELL ME ALL ALONG...
HATE TO SAY IT, KID.

YOU WERE READY TO MAKE THE RIGHT PLAY ALL ALONG. BUT I PUSHED YOU INTO RUNNING IT FOR THE WRONG TEAM.
BARRICADE!
YOU'RE ALIVE!
BARELY.
THANKS TO THIS SLAG-SUCKER RIGHT HERE.
HEY, YOU'RE WELCOME.
DON'T MENTION IT.
BUT H-HE'S AN AUTOBOT...
YES.
AND WE ARE ALL CYBERTRONIANS.

I THOUGHT YOU SAID--
WHO GIVES A SCRAP WHAT YOU THOUGHT?! WE'RE STILL DECEPTICONS, AND WE'RE STILL FIGHTING A WAR. WE GOT A JOB TO DO--SIMPLE AS THAT!

FOR WHOM--SKYSTALKER?!
THIS NEW "LEADER" OF YOURS WILL USE AND DISCARD YOU AS READILY AS SHOCKWAVE EVER DID. DID HE NOT JUST SEND A LEGION OF HIS "FELLOW" DECEPTICONS OFF TO THEIR DEATHS TODAY...? DO YOU THINK IT WOULD BE ANY DIFFERENT WITH YOU?
BIG DEAL. THOSE GUZZLERS DESERVED TO DIE!
PERHAPS. BUT DO YOU TRULY BELIEVE THAT HE WOULD FEEL ANY DIFFERENTLY ABOUT SENDING YOU TO A SIMILAR FATE?

DON'T YOU SEE...? THE TRUE BATTLE DOES NOT REST WITH YOUR MICROMASTER BRETHREN. RATHER THE TRUE FIGHT IS WITH THEM.
AND IF THAT'S THE CASE, IF YOU WISH TO MAKE THESE "GUZZLERS"--AUTOBOT AND DECEPTICON--PAY FOR THEIR MISTREATMENT OF YOU...

THEN WHY NOT JOIN ME.

AGAINST THEM?

ERRR CAN'T TRANSFORM OUTTA JUICE SYSTEM'S FADIN INTO STASIS LOCK
KRUNK

NO!
CAN'T GIVE UP NEED TA. HELP
LIE DOWN AND DIE, AUTOBOTS IT'S OVER!

TRY TO SHUT DOWN WITH SOME DIGNITY
I DON'T THINK SO, OCTANE WE DON'T SURRENDER TO THE LIKES OF YOU.
NOT NOW--
NOT EVER!
THIS HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH!

WHO SAID THAT- ?!
BY THE MATRIX.

BIG DADDY!
NO MAKE THAT

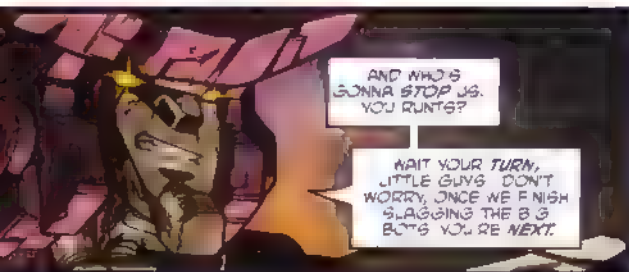
IT'S COUNTDOWN!
THIS TRAVESTY ENDS HERE AND NOW.

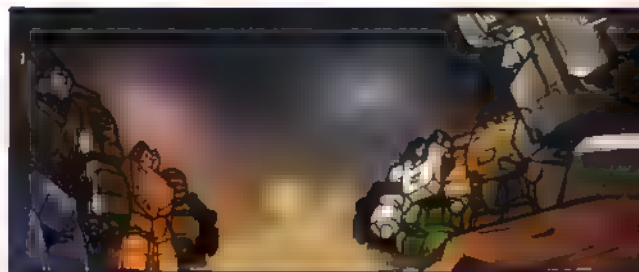
OH, IS THAT RIGHT?
YEAH. THAT IS RIGHT
WHAT, MORE SCRAPLETS?

YOU CAN FOOL SOME OF THE BOTS SOME OF THE TIME

...ALL OF US

BUT NOT TODAY

THIS GAME IS *OVER*

AND WHO'S GONNA *STOP* US, YOU RUNTS?

WAIT YOUR *TURN*, LITTLE GUYS. DON'T WORRY, ONCE WE FINISH SLAGGING THE BIG BOTS YOU'RE *NEXT*.

YOU'RE NOT THE *FIRST* PERSON TO QUESTION OUR POWER

BUT DOING SO IS A *MISTAKE*

HOWEVER, IF YOU *INSIST* ON DOUBTING MY WORDS

...YOU KILLED HIM...

THIS IS ALL A LITTLE DRAMATIC, COUNTDOWN... EVEN FOR YOU.

NOT TO MENTION HORRIBLY GROTESQUE.

I TRIED TO EXPLAIN THE SITUATION TO YOU BOTH BEFORE. THIS WASN'T MY DOING, BUT THE CONTINUED ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE IS UNAVOIDABLE...UNLESS MY WARNINGS ARE HEEDED.

JUST GET OFF ME, FIXIT...I AIN'T GONNA MAKE IT.

SIDETRACK? IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO?
YEAH...CHOKE ON YOUR OWN FUEL...WE CAME HERE TO SAVE YOU.
AN' NOW I'M... DEAD...IT WASN'T WORTH IT.

BIG DADDY...I KNOW THIS IS A BAD TIME, BUT WE NEED TO SPEAK.
IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING TO CONVINCE THIS GROUP TO STAY SOON, I DON'T THINK WE'LL BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OVER THEM.
WE? CONTROL?

THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT FOR YOU, ISN'T IT?
FUNNY...MAGNUS... SHOCKWAVE...AND NOW, YOUR BUDDY SKYSTALKER.
CAN'T YOU SEE WHAT ALL THESE HEADGAMES HAVE DONE? LOOK AT THEM OUT THERE. CELEBRATING DEATH, PRYING VALUABLES OUT OF COLD, DEACTIVATED HANDS...IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ANY OF YOU HOW ALL OF THIS AFFECTS THEM-- AS LONG AS YOU GET YOUR TERRITORY...OR YOUR ENERGON...

...OR YOUR "SACRED MISSION."
...THERE'S A VAST GULF OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHY I AM DOING THIS, AND WHY THE OTHERS ARE--
IS THERE? YOUR SPEECHES VARY, BUT THE POINT'S ALWAYS THE SAME: MANIPULATING SOMEBODY INTO DOING WHAT YOU WANT, RIGHT OR WRONG.
WELL, FORGET IT. HONESTLY, I COULD GIVE A SLAG ABOUT YOUR "CRUSADE" AT THIS POINT.
IF THIS IS WHERE IT LEADS, I DON'T WANT ANY PART OF IT. THERE'S GOT TO BE SOMETHING MORE THAN THIS, AND I INTEND TO FIND IT...

...ON MY OWN.
THE END?

e-mail: tfmicromasters@dreamwaveprod.net

MICROMASTERS

TRANSFORMERS MICROMASTERS c/o Dreamwave Productions, 11 Allstate Parkway, Suite 200, Markham, Ontario, L3R 9T8 Canada

Welcome to the last issue of our first *Micromasters* mini-series! And what better way to wrap up this series' letters column than by hearing from none other than Optimus Prime...

Want to start off by saying that *Transformers Micromasters* is just prime! The story thus far is top-notch. Countdown is one of my top three fave 'Bots ever—an inter-galactic hero like no other. I am wondering about something, though. Why do the Micromasters have their "Earth" alt modes? Also, why is the poster hanging on the wall in the club of Prime and Megatron in their "Earth" forms? Not complaining by any means, just curious. Please keep up the great storytelling.

Mr. Optimus Prime

Thanks for the seal of approval! We're pretty fond of Countdown, too...even if his attempted manipulation of the young Micros wasn't the best way to go about achieving his noble goals, we know his fuel pump's in the right place. Much like the rest of the cast, future stories will show Countdown grow into a better leader and (hopefully) an even greater hero!

The poster should've shown *War Within* robot modes...not exactly sure how it snuck in as is. As for the Micromasters' Earth alternate modes, *Micromasters #3* gave us a hint about Vector Sigma's role in that, as well as a bit of an explanation for why the larger Transformers would change into vehicles with human-sized cockpits (which we see even in their original Cybertronian modes) in the first place. Come on, nobody ever wondered about that?! That's a big loose end in our opinion, and we wanted to make sure we developed an in-story explanation of that for our *Transformers* continuity.

Hey Dreamwave,
Yo, I'm liking the *Micromasters* series tons! It's diesel! Issue 2 was very cool; I was impressed by the way you made them into a cyber-subculture of their own via the use of words and phrases ("'sup," "jacked up," and so on). Where you, the writers, will take 'em is anyone's guess—something I like very much. My hat goes out to the artists and writers. Bend some metal!

Travis Hughes

Rest assured that some metal is bending as we speak, Travis. Trying to give the Micromasters their own flavor through dialect and behavior was a big part of setting up this series, so it's cool that so many people—like you— have picked up on that. It just wouldn't make sense for these young punks to talk like the old geezer (or is that "guzzler"?) Transformers!

Dear Dreamwave Staff,

I just acquired *Transformers Micromasters #2*, and I was looking at the two-page spread where the Micromasters are in that building. I noticed that one of them has a Blendtron symbol from the Japanese *Beast Wars* on his arm. What does this mean?

Thank you very much,

Samuel Dimeny

Roadhugger (the Micro applying the tattoo) probably came up with it after a few swigs of Ground Hog's "special" Energon, and Mudslinger (the Micro receiving the tat) just thought it would be a cool, scary image to have on his arm. Those wacky kids...

I loved the first two issues of this series so far. I really hope we see more of these guys in a future series. I'd REALLY love it if you guys would go back and tell their origins in a special #0 issue before the trade comes out.

Michael Payton

This very issue gives us a brief taste of the Micromasters' early joint training under the Autobots and Decepticons, and also raises some new questions about exactly what events led to the "Meltdown" that separated them into factions. We'd love to return to the Micros in another series and tell more about the exact details of their origin, as well as what happens to them in the future! In fact, you guys can help us out by telling us what you'd like to see most: a mini dealing solely with the origins of the Micros, a mini dealing solely with the further events of the Great Shutdown after this series, or a combination of the two!

We had a great time experimenting with the conventions of *Transformers* and trying to do things a little differently in this series, so thanks to all the readers who helped make it a success. Now that the series has established itself, we look forward to perfecting it when we return to the world of the Micromasters for further adventures!

'Til then, don't be a drone, Micro!

**James McDonough
and Adam Patyk**